

and September (*Ent. Annual*: 1861: 101). J. Hellings (*Ent. mon. Mag.* **13**: 93) does not state the locality or date of his capture of this species, but although he lived at Exeter it is thought that he did not see it there. G. C. Bignell (1870) and E. Parfitt (1878) repeat the locations given, with Barrett (1904) saying “more than forty years ago it was found near Plymouth, and more recently in other parts of Devon”. The species has been captured in other parts of Great Britain.— ROY MCCORMICK, 36 Paradise Road, Teignmouth, Devon TQ14 8NR.

***Leptura fulva* (Degeer) (Col.: Cerambycidae) in South Wiltshire.**

Michael Darby has recently shown (1997. *Recording Wiltshire* No. 2: 10-11. Wiltshire Biological Records Centre) that *Leptura fulva* Degeer appears to be well established in Wiltshire (5 sites) despite Hyman and Parsons (1992. *A review of the scarce and threatened Coleoptera of Great Britain*. Part 1: UK Nature Conservation No. 3. JNCC) describing it as “very local and much declined” nationally and assigning it Red Data Book category 3 (rare) status. In his article, he observes that almost all recent Wiltshire specimens have been observed on downland sites away from suitable living/rotting timber and suggests that fence posts are the likely breeding site. My sole encounter with the species in the county was not on downland, but would support this hypothesis.

Between 27 July and 1 August 1991, I found several specimens on hogweed *Heracleum sphondylium* umbels beside a narrow bye-road flanked by arable fields at Milford near Salisbury (grid reference SU 159295). Although there were small scattered hawthorns *Crataegus* present, no sign of breeding in these was detected and the field boundary fence posts seemed the most likely breeding site.— DAVID R. NASH, 3 Church Lane, Brantham, Suffolk CO11 1PU.

***Leptura melanura* L. (Col.: Cerambycidae) in Middlesex**

I found one example of this longhorn beetle in a field here in Sunbury on 21 May 1988 where it was resting on, or perhaps feeding from, a hogweed *Heracleum sphondylium* umbel. I was somewhat surprised to find it so close to the London suburbs and indeed, R. Uthtoff-Kaufmann in this journal (1998. **100**: 63 - 71), does not list it from Middlesex. Nor have I any other records from this vice-county.

— D.A. PRANCE, 8 The Ridings, Sunbury-on-Thames, Middlesex TW16 6NU.

**EDITORIAL COMMENT:** I was, initially, a little surprised on receiving this note, since I find the beetle (known previously as *Strangalia melanura*) occasionally on ruderal sites in eastern London, affecting the vice-counties of South Essex and West Kent in the vicinity of the River Thames (the “East Thames Corridor”). However, careful checking does indeed reveal that in spite of carrying out much field work in the eastern sector of London I do not have any records from this side of adjacent Middlesex. Hogweed umbels also feature in my own records from the East Thames Corridor, though most records are from yellow water-traps.